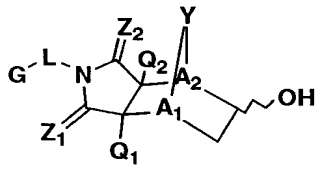
CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Add the following new claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A method for preparation of a compound of the following formula XVI, or salt thereof:



XVI

where

G is an aryl or heterocyclo group, where said group is mono- or polycyclic, and which is optionally substituted at one or more positions;

Z_1 is O, S, NH, or NR^6;

Z_2 is O, S, NH, or NR^6;

A_1 is CR^7 or N;

A_2 is CR^7 or N;

Y' is J-J'-J" where J is $(CR^7R^{7'})n$ and n = 0-3, J' is O, S, S=O, SO_2, NH, NR^7, $OP{=}OOR^2$, OC=O, $NR^1C{=}O$, $OP{=}ONHR^2$, OSO_2, NHNH, $NHNR^6$, NR^6NH, or N=N, and J" is $(CR^7R^{7'})n$ and n = 0-3;

Q_1 is H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, aryl or substituted aryl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, halo, CN, $R^1OC{=}O$, $R^4C{=}O$, $R^5R^6NC{=}O$, $HOCR^7R^{7'}$, nitro, R^1OCH_2, R^1O, NH_2, $C{=}OSR^1$, SO_2R^1 or NR^4R^5;

Q_2 is H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, aryl or substituted aryl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, halo, CN, $R^1OC{=}O$, $R^4C{=}O$, $R^5R^6NC{=}O$, $HOCR^7R^{7'}$, nitro, R^1OCH_2, R^1O, NH_2, $C{=}OSR^1$, SO_2R^1 or NR^4R^5;

L is a bond, $(CR^7R^{7'})n$, NH, NR^5 or $NR^5(CR^7R^{7'})n$, where n = 0-3;

R^1 and $R^{1'}$ are each independently H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

R^2 is alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

R^4 is H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, $R^1C{=}O$, $R^1NHC{=}O$, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$;

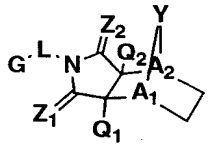
R^5 is alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, $R^1C{=}O$, $R^1NHC{=}O$, SO_2R^1, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$;

R^6 is alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, CN, OH, OR^1, $R^1C{=}O$, $R^1NHC{=}O$, SO_2R^1, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$; and

R^7 and $R^{7'}$ are each independently H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted

heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, halo, CN, OR^1, nitro, hydroxylamine, hydroxylamide, amino, NHR^4, NR^2R^5, NOR^1, thiol, alkylthio or substituted alkylthio, $R^1C{=}O$, $R^1(C{=}O)O$, $R^1OC{=}O$, $R^1NHC{=}O$, SO_2R^1, SOR^1, $PO_3R^1R^{1'}$, $R^1R^{1'}NC{=}O$, $C{=}OSR^1$, SO_2R^1, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$;

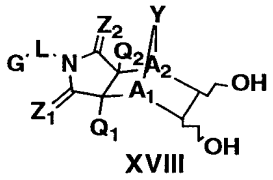
comprising the steps of contacting a compound of the following formula XV, or salt thereof:



XV

where the symbols are as defined above;
with an enzyme or microorganism capable of catalyzing the hydroxylation of said compound XV to said compound XVI, and effecting said hydroxylation.

2. (ORIGINAL) A method for preparation of a compound of the following formula XVIII, or salt thereof:



XVIII

where
G is an aryl or heterocyclo group, where said group is mono- or polycyclic, and which is optionally substituted at one or more positions;

Z_1 is O, S, NH, or NR^6;

Z_2 is O, S, NH, or NR^6;

A_1 is CR^7 or N;

A_2 is CR^7 or N;

Y' is J-J'-J" where J is $(CR^7R^{7'})n$ and n = 0-3, J' is O, S, S=O, SO_2, NH, NR^7, $OP{=}OOR^2$, $OC{=}O$, $NR^1C{=}O$, $OP{=}ONHR^2$, OSO_2, NHNH, $NHNR^6$, NR^6NH, or N=N, and J" is $(CR^7R^{7'})n$ and n = 0-3;

Q_1 is H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, aryl or substituted aryl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, halo, CN, $R^1OC=O$, $R^4C=O$, $R^5R^6NC=O$, $HOCR^7R^{7'}$, nitro, R^1OCH_2, R^1O, NH_2, $C=OSR^1$, SO_2R^1 or NR^4R^5;

Q_2 is H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, aryl or substituted aryl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, halo, CN, $R^1OC=O$, $R^4C=O$, $R^5R^6NC=O$, $HOCR^7R^{7'}$, nitro, R^1OCH_2, R^1O, NH_2, $C=OSR^1$, SO_2R^1 or NR^4R^5;

L is a bond, $(CR^7R^{7'})n$, NH, NR^5 or $NR^5(CR^7R^{7'})n$, where n = 0-3;

R^1 and $R^{1'}$ are each independently H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkyalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

R^2 is alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl;

R^4 is H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, $R^1C=O$, $R^1NHC=O$, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$;

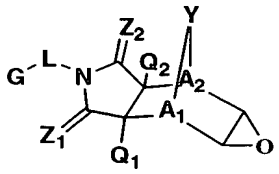
R^5 is alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl,

heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, $R^1C=O$, $R^1NHC=O$, SO_2R^1, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$;

R^6 is alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, CN, OH, OR^1, $R^1C=O$, $R^1NHC=O$, SO_2R^1, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$; and

R^7 and $R^{7'}$ are each independently H, alkyl or substituted alkyl, alkenyl or substituted alkenyl, alkynyl or substituted alkynyl, cycloalkyl or substituted cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or substituted cycloalkenyl, heterocyclo or substituted heterocyclo, cycloalkylalkyl or substituted cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenylalkyl or substituted cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl or substituted heterocycloalkyl, aryl or substituted aryl, arylalkyl or substituted arylalkyl, halo, CN, OR^1, nitro, hydroxylamine, hydroxylamide, amino, NHR^4, NR^2R^5, NOR^1, thiol, alkylthio or substituted alkylthio, $R^1C=O$, $R^1(C=O)O$, $R^1OC=O$, $R^1NHC=O$, SO_2R^1, SOR^1, $PO_3R^1R^{1'}$, $R^1R^{1'}NC=O$, $C=OSR^1$, SO_2R^1, SO_2OR^1, or $SO_2NR^1R^{1'}$;

comprising the steps of contacting a compound of the following formula XVII, or salt thereof:



XVII

where the symbols are as defined above;

with an enzyme or microorganism capable of catalyzing the opening of the epoxide ring of compound XVII to form the diol of said compound XVIII, and effecting said ring opening and diol formation.

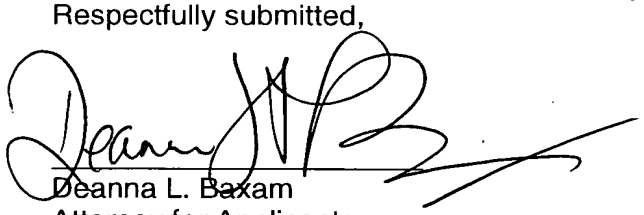
3. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein a microorganism is incubated with the compound of formula XV to effect the hydroxylation.

4. (NEW) The method of claim 1 wherein the reaction mixture, after hydroxylation, is separated by chiral HPLC.

The foregoing amendments are submitted for the Examiner's consideration and entry. No fees are believed to be due in connection with this response, however if it is determined that any such fees are due, Applicants will promptly remit such fees upon receipt of an appropriate notification.

If a direct personal communication might advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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